



Senate

General Assembly

January Session, 2005

File No. 7

Senate Bill No. 23

Senate, March 1, 2005

The Committee on Human Services reported through SEN. HANDLEY of the 4th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SERVICES
FOR THE BLIND MONITORING COUNCIL.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 3 of public act 03-217, as amended by section 2 of
2 public act 04-90, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

4 (a) There is established a council to monitor the activities of the
5 Board of Education and Services for the Blind in carrying out its
6 mission and statutorily prescribed duties.

7 (b) The council shall consist of the following members:

8 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
9 who is a person with expertise in business administration and financial
10 management;

11 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who

12 is a representative of a state-wide organization that represents the
13 interests of the blind;

14 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
15 Representatives, who is an adult with blindness;

16 (4) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
17 Representatives who is an adult with blindness, receiving services
18 from the Board of Education and Services for the Blind;

19 (5) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who is an
20 adult with blindness;

21 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate who is an
22 adult with blindness, receiving services from the Board of Education
23 and Services for the Blind;

24 (7) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing
25 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
26 relating to human services, or their designees;

27 (8) The chairpersons of the Legislative Program Review and
28 Investigations Committee, or their designees;

29 (9) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the
30 secretary's designee;

31 (10) The Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's
32 designee;

33 (11) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's
34 designee;

35 (12) The executive director of the Board of Education and Services
36 for the Blind, or the director's designee.

37 (c) Any member of the council appointed under subdivision (7) or
38 (8) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the General
39 Assembly.

40 (d) All appointments to the council shall be made no later than
41 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be
42 filled by the appointing authority.

43 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
44 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the council,
45 from among the members of the council. Such chairpersons shall
46 schedule the first meeting of the council, which shall be held not later
47 than July 1, 2003. The council shall meet at least monthly thereafter
48 until [February] September 1, 2005, and shall terminate not later than
49 [July 1, 2005] January 1, 2006.

50 (f) The council, in consultation with the Board of Education and
51 Services for the Blind shall establish benchmarks concerning agency
52 management, operations and services. The council shall: (1) Monitor
53 the activities of the Board of Education and Services for the Blind
54 regarding: (A) The quality, efficiency and equity of (i) educational
55 services for children who are blind or visually impaired, (ii) home and
56 daily living skills services for persons who are blind, (iii) vocational
57 rehabilitation services and programs for persons who are blind, (iv)
58 outreach efforts to identify and provide information and services to
59 elderly persons who are blind, (B) the provision of employment
60 training and experience in a competitive work environment and
61 availability of the broadest employment and entrepreneurial
62 opportunities for individuals who are blind, (C) the development and
63 implementation of strategic planning efforts, (D) the accountability of
64 fiscal operations, including, but not limited to, the preparation of a
65 detailed program budget and expenditure reports, (E) agency
66 implementation of the administrative recommendations contained in
67 the December, 2002 Legislative Program Review and Investigations
68 Committee on the Board of Education and Services vending
69 operations; and (2) develop recommendations for proposed changes in
70 the organizational structure of the Board of Education and Services for
71 the Blind.

72 (g) Not later than [February] September 1, 2005, the council shall

73 submit a report on the progress made by the Board of Education and
74 Services for the Blind in meeting benchmarks established by the
75 council to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
76 having cognizance of matters relating to human services,
77 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies and education, in
78 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.
79 Such report shall also include legislative proposals and
80 recommendations for proposed changes in the organizational structure
81 of the Board of Education and Services for the Blind.

82 (h) Failure by the Board of Education and Services for the Blind to
83 meet specific benchmarks established by the council may result in the
84 transfer of authority and related funding for deficient programs and
85 services to another state agency.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	PA 03-217, Sec. 3

HS *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill extends the reporting deadline (and termination date) of the Board of Education and Services for the Blind monitoring council and will result in no cost to the state.

OLR Bill Analysis

SB 23

AN ACT CONCERNING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SERVICES FOR THE BLIND MONITORING COUNCIL**SUMMARY:**

This bill extends the sunset date for the council monitoring the Board of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB) from July 1, 2005 until January 1, 2006. It also requires the council to continue to meet at least monthly until, and submit a progress report to the Human Services, Appropriations, and Education committees by, September 1, 2005 instead of February 1, 2005. The council has been meeting regularly since January 2004. It issued a preliminary progress report in January 2005.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND***BESB Monitoring Council***

PA 03-217 established the BESB monitoring council. The 16-member council consists of legislators, state agency personnel, and public members, including adults with blindness. The law requires the council to establish benchmarks concerning BESB's management, operations, and services, and report on the agency's progress meeting those benchmarks. The council must also recommend changes in BESB's organizational structure. PA 04-90 added two members to the council and extended its sunset to July 1, 2005.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 14 Nay 0